

Illicit Discharge Fact Sheet

What is an illicit discharge?

An “illicit discharge” is any unpermitted discharge to waters of the state that does not consist entirely of stormwater or uncontaminated ground water.

Are there any exceptions?

The following categories of non-stormwater discharges are allowed if such non-stormwater discharges do not contribute to a violation of water quality standards:

- Uncontaminated groundwater discharges including, but not limited to, pumped ground water, foundation drains, water from crawl space pumps and footing drains
- Irrigation water including, but not limited to, landscape irrigation and lawn watering runoff
- Residual street wash water associated with sweeping
- Discharges or flows from firefighting activities (except training)
- Naturally occurring discharges such as rising ground waters, uncontaminated ground water infiltration (as defined at 40 CFR 35.2005(20)), springs, diverted stream flows and flows from riparian habitats and wetlands.

What are examples of illicit discharges?

Examples of illicit discharges include but are not limited to:

- Paint being poured into or near the storm drainage system
- Changing oil or antifreeze over or near a storm structure
- Washing vehicles where the runoff could drain into the storm drainage system
- Illegal cross connections or infiltration from leaks from the sanitary sewer including laundry wash water
- Floor drain discharges from commercial or industrial buildings
- Draining pool water
- Soapy water (waste water) from mopping floors or cleaning carpets dumped into the storm drainage system

What is the City doing about illicit discharges?

The City has developed an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program as required by the CT DEEP MS4 General Permit to prohibit and eliminate illicit discharges to the MS4, find the source of any illicit discharges, eliminate those illicit discharges, and ensure ongoing screening and tracking to prevent and/or eliminate future illicit discharges. Residents are encouraged to report incidents of illicit discharges to the City.

How do I report an illicit discharge?

The City of Hartford utilizes the Hartford 311 system for residents to report an illicit discharge seen on City owned roads and property (see below for State roads or highways). The exact address and the time of an observed discharge is required for reporting. Citizens can access the Hartford 311 system to report by:

- Phone: (860) 757-9311
- E-mail: 311callcenter@hartford.gov
- On-line: Currently under development, link will be provided when available
- 311 APP:
<https://www.hartfordct.gov/Government/Departments/Mayors-Office/Community-Engagement/CE-Services/Hartford-311>
- In Person: Welcome Desk located on Ground Floor of Hartford City Hall M-F 8 am to 5pm

How do I report an illicit discharge on a State road or highway?

For illicit Discharges seen on highways such as I-84 or I-91 or state roads such as:

- Blue Hills Avenue
- Albany Avenue
- New Britain Avenue
- Columbus Boulevard

Send an email to DOT.MS4@ct.gov. To the extent possible please include any details regarding the discharge such as location (address, nearest cross street, mile markers, etc.), the name of the receiving water and a description of what's been observed (source, color, odor, etc.).

For more information please visit the CT DOT MS4 Program webpage at:
https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/PP_Envir/Water_Natural_Resources/CTDOT-MS4